

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

Claims 1-21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): A composition comprising a plurality of a conjugate, wherein said conjugate comprises:

C, a chemically defined valency platform molecule comprising branching groups, wherein the valency of said platform molecule is predetermined by the number of branching groups and wherein the valency of said platform molecule is two or more, wherein the valency platform molecule is chemically defined in that the number of branching groups pre-determines the valency of said platform molecule and location of attachment sites for biologically active molecules; and, contains a specific number of attachment sites whereby the valency of said platform molecule is defined; and

a multiplicity of biologically active molecules conjugated to the chemically defined valency platform molecule at said attachment sites;

~~wherein the molecular weight of the valency platform molecules is substantially homogeneous; and~~

~~wherein the valency platform molecules have attachment sites at the same location.~~

Claim 23 (currently amended): The composition of claim 22, wherein the branching groups are derived from a functional ~~group~~ moiety selected from the group consisting of diamino acid, triamine, and amino diacid.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The composition of claim 22, wherein the ~~multiplicity of~~ biologically active molecules are the same.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The composition of claim 22 ~~comprising conjugates~~, wherein a said conjugate comprises ~~four biologically active molecules~~ two branching groups, providing a total of four attachment sites for the biologically active molecules.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The composition of claim 22, wherein the biologically active ~~molecule comprises~~ molecules comprise a polynucleotide.

Claim 27 (previously added): The composition of claim 26, wherein the polynucleotide is a polynucleotide duplex.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The composition of claim 26, wherein the polynucleotide is a polynucleotide duplex of about 20 to about 50 bp in length.

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Claim 29 (previously added): The composition of claim 26, wherein the polynucleotide is synthetic.

Claim 30 (previously added): The composition of claim 26, wherein the polynucleotide is prepared by molecular cloning.

Claim 31 (previously added): The composition of claim 26, wherein the polynucleotide is a polynucleotide duplex having a B DNA type helical structure.

Claim 32 (withdrawn)

Claim 33 (previously added): The composition of claim 22, wherein the biologically active molecule is selected from the group consisting of analogs of immunogens, haptens, mimotopes, and aptamers.

Claim 34 (previously added): The composition of claim 22, wherein the chemically defined valency platform molecule is substantially nonimmunogenic.

Claim 35 (previously added): The composition of claim 22, wherein the composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The composition of claim 35, wherein the composition is suitable for ~~treating antibody-mediated pathologies~~ the suppression of antibody production.

Claim 37 (previously added): The composition of claim 35, wherein the composition is suitable for injection.

Claim 38 (previously added): The composition of claim 35, wherein the composition is suitable for the treatment of human systemic lupus erythematosus.

C, Claim 39 (previously added): The composition of claim 22, wherein the conjugate comprises polyethylene glycol.

Claim 40 (previously added): The composition of claim 22, wherein the valency platform molecule comprises polyethylene glycol.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The composition of claim 22, wherein the conjugate comprises polyethylene glycol having the formula $-\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2)_r\text{CH}_2-$, wherein $r=0$ $r=1$ to 300.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The composition of claim 22, wherein the valency platform molecule comprises polyethylene glycol having the formula $-\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2)_r\text{CH}_2-$, wherein $r=0$ $r=1$ to 300.

Claim 43 (previously added): The composition of claim 22, wherein the valency platform molecule comprises triethylene glycol.

Claims 44-45 (withdrawn)

Claim 46 (new): The composition of claim 22, wherein the conjugate comprises triethyleneglycol.

Claim 47 (new): The composition of claim 22, wherein the valency platform molecules have substantially homogeneous molecular weight.

Claim 48 (new): The composition of claim 22, wherein the biologically active molecules are located at one end of the platform molecule.

C, Claim 49 (new): The composition of claim 22, wherein the biologically active molecules are located at both opposing ends of the platform molecule.

Claim 50 (new): The composition of claim 22, wherein said valency platform molecule comprises at least one terminal branching group, wherein said terminal branching group is bifurcated, thereby providing two attachment sites for said biologically active molecules.

Claim 51 (new): The composition of claim 35, wherein the composition is suitable for reducing antibody levels.

Claim 52 (new): The composition of claim 35 wherein at least one molecule of the biologically active molecules is an analog of an immunogen that binds specifically to an antibody to which the immunogen binds specifically and lacks T cell epitopes.

Claim 53 (new): The composition of claim 35, wherein the composition is suitable for reducing antibody levels.

Claim 54 (new): The composition of claim 22, wherein the conjugate comprises linking moieties bound to termini of the branching groups and to the biologically active molecules.

Claim 55 (new): The composition of claim 24 wherein the conjugate comprises linking moieties bound to termini of the branching groups and to the biologically active molecules.

Claim 56 (new): The composition of claim 24 wherein the valency platform molecules have substantially homogeneous molecular weight.

C1 Claim 57 (new): The composition of claim 56 wherein the conjugate comprises linking moieties bound to termini of the branching groups and to the biologically active molecules.

Claim 58 (new): The composition of claim 24, wherein the biologically active molecules comprise a polynucleotide.

Claim 59 (new): The composition of claim 58, wherein the conjugate comprises linking moieties bound to termini of the branching groups and to the biologically active molecules.

Claim 60 (new): The composition of claim 58, wherein the valency platform molecules have substantially homogeneous molecular weight.

Claim 61 (new): The composition of claim 60, wherein the conjugate comprises linking moieties bound to termini of the branching groups and to the biologically active molecules.

9 Claim 62 (new): The composition of claim 22 wherein the branching groups are derived from trivalent functionalized branching moieties, thereby doubling the valency of said platform molecule.

Claim 63 (new): The composition of 24 wherein the biologically active molecules are identical.
